



RIC/RFW

PTO/SB/30 (09-04)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**Request
For
Continued Examination (RCE)
Transmittal**

Address to:
MS RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	10/715,969
Filing Date	November 18, 2003
First Named Inventor	James D. Ralph
Art Unit	3738
Examiner Name	J. G. Blanco
Attorney Docket Number	SPINE 3.0-446 CONT

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.

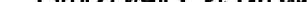
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT\ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Signature	<i>Michael J. Doherty</i>	Date	April 5, 2005
Name (Print/Type)	Michael J. Doherty	Registration No.	40,592

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: April 5, 2005

Signature:  (Michael J. Doherty)

555528-1
04/11/2005 EFLORES 00000086 121095 10715969
01 FC:1801 790.00 DA



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: April 5, 2005

Signature: *Michael J. Doherty*
(Michael J. Doherty)

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
Group Art Unit: 3738
Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-446 CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:	:
Ralph et al.	:
Application No.: 10/715,969	: Group Art Unit: 3738
Filed: November 18, 2003	: Examiner: J. G. Blanco
For: INTERVERTEBRAL SPACER DEVICE	:
HAVING ARCH SHAPED SPRING	:
ELEMENTS	:

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.114

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks in connection with a Request for Continued Examination of the subject application pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Entry of the present Amendment and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.